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Title:

Notes for 3 minute Speech at the New Plant of Rubery, Owen and Kemsley Pty. Ltd.

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NOTES FOR 3 MINUTE SPEECH AT THE NEW PLANT OF RUBERY,

OWEN & KEMSLEY PTY. LTD.

27.7.72

1. MR. GWINNETT, MR. HOLDEN, YOUR WORSHIP, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, (LADIES AND) GENTLEMEN.
2. THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME HERE THIS MORNING TO CELEBRATE WITH YOU THE OPENING OF THESE WORKS, AND RUBERY OWEN'S QUARTER OF A CENTURY IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.
3. THE GROWTH AND SUCCESS OF YOUR COMPANY'S OPERATIONS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA HAS BEEN SPECTACULAR, AND IN A SENSE HAS REFLECTED THE POST-WAR GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATE.

2.

4. THE COMPANY WAS ESTABLISHED HERE IN 1947 FOLLOWING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AND IN PREMISES WHICH, AS MANY OF YOU WOULD KNOW, WERE ORIGINALLY USED BY THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT FOR MUNITIONS PRODUCTION BEFORE BEING TRANSFERRED TO STATE CONTROL.
5. THE CO-OPERATION OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMPANY HERE, THROUGH THE PROVISION OF A LOW COST FACTORY AREA, WAS AN EARLY EXAMPLE OF A POLICY WHICH SUCCESSIVE STATE GOVERNMENTS HAVE FOLLOWED.

6. SUCH ASSISTANCE TO MANUFACTURERS CONTINUES, ESPECIALLY IN SUCH DEVELOPING INDUSTRIAL AREAS AS ELIZABETH AND CHRISTIES BEACH.
 7. THERE ARE, I BELIEVE, TWO ASPECTS OF THE COMPANY'S RECENT OPERATIONS WHICH ARE ESPECIALLY SIGNIFICANT IN THE LIGHT OF MY GOVERNMENT'S PLANS TO STRONGLY ENCOURAGE THE DIVERSIFICATION OF MANUFACTURE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.
 8. THESE ARE, FIRSTLY, ITS GROWING EXPORT-MARKETING OPERATIONS OVERSEAS. I AM INFORMED THAT AGENCIES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED THROUGHOUT SOUTH EAST ASIA, SOME IN AREAS WHERE THE STATE GOVERNMENT ITSELF HAS RECENTLY APPOINTED AGENTS, OR HAS BEEN AT AN OFFICIAL LEVEL SEEKING OUTLETS FOR STATE PRODUCTS.
- 4.
9. SECONDLY, WHILE THE COMPANY'S MAIN ACTIVITIES HAVE CONCENTRATED ON THE PRODUCTION OF WHEELS FOR LEADING AUSTRALIAN VEHICLE MANUFACTURERS, IT HAS CONSTANTLY PURSUED A DIVERSIFICATION PROGRAMME, SO THAT NOW, IN ADDITION TO GENERAL AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS, IT PRODUCES A GROWING RANGE OF METAL AND ENGINEERING PRODUCTS NOT TIED SO CLOSELY TO THE EXIGENCIES AND VARIABILITY OF PRIVATE CONSUMER DEMAND.
 10. THIS GENTLEMEN, IS AN ORGANISATIONAL COURSE WHICH THE GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO SEE ESTABLISHED IN INDUSTRIES THROUGHOUT SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

11. EVEN THOUGH, AT THIS MOMENT IN AUSTRALIA, WE ARE EXPERIENCING A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF INDUSTRIAL UNREST, I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO REALISE THAT NEVERTHELESS, IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA, WE HAVE THROUGH CLOSE GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT - UNION CONSULTATION MANAGED TO MAINTAIN THE STATE'S ADVANTAGE OVER OTHER STATES IN THE AREAS OF DAYS LOST FROM INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES. THE LATEST FIGURES OF OUR ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE UNIT HAVE INDICATED THAT WHILE WE HAVE 9.1% OF THE AUSTRALIAN WORK FORCE, INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE YEAR HAVE TOTALLED ONLY 9,200 HOURS, REPRESENTING 2.2% OF THE AUSTRALIAN TOTAL.

12. I HAVE GREAT PLEASURE IN OFFICIALLY STARTING THE NEW RIM PLANT.

(PRESS BUTTON)